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LETTERS TO THOMAS ADAMS.

The following letters—originals of which are among the MSS. collection of the Virginia Historical Society—are printed according to date. They were all addressed to Hon. Thomas Adams, one while he was visiting London, the others to him in Richmond or Philadelphia:

W^mburgh, Virg^a, Dec^r 11th, '771-2.

I have wrote more than once to England for *Scapula's Lexicon*. I have been as often assured, that no such Book can be found in the Shops. But I fancy my Correspond^{nt} never applied to the proper Places, where Classics are sold. Will you be kind enough to repeat the Search, if convenient, or, if you hear of it in any old Library, buy & send it me by the first Opportunity. If I could ascertain the Price, I would send you the money; but will take care to remit it upon the receiving of the Lexicon.

I am D^r S^r, y^r mo. ob^t Serv^t,

EDM. RANDOLPH.

London, 10 March, 1775.

Dear Sir,

Before this reaches you, you will probably have seen your old acquaintance Mr. Edw^d Browne who sail'd for Virg^a in Jan^y last.

The Prospect, Cap^t Norwood, now goes out to load for me in York River, & if y^r other engagements do not prevent it, I w^d beg leave to solicit y^r kind assistance. I know it is in your power to do me much service, which you may be sure I shall always gratefully acknowlege. Your orders being conveyed in time either to Cap^t Norwood or Outram will be properly attended to. I have been so perfectly fatigued with helping to prepare & present the London merch^{ts} several petitions respecting the American Affairs that I am almost worn out in constant service night & day ever since the 4th of Jan^y. Our applications have been

treated as in great measure they deserved, because the Ministry knew well enough the Merch^{ts}, except 2 or 3 of us, were not at all serious; hence it is, that our petitions are almost all, but the last to the H. of Lords, little else than milk & water. The Glasgow Merch^{ts} played the same game but with less trouble, they sent a strong petition to the H. of C. in favour of America, but at the same time gave L^d North to understand by their member P. F. Campbell, that they did not mean any opposition, but to gain credit in America, & thereby more easily collect their debts. This is currently reported here but I cannot vouch it for fact, therefore only mention it as a report. However it is certain, that since the petition we have heard nothing more from Glasg^w.

You have fully the ministerial system of Tyranny plan'd for you—No one here can so well point out the best plan of opposition as you can yourselves, but oppose you will at all hazards I firmly hope & believe.

I am D^r Sir y^{rs} Sincerely,

WILLIAM LEE.

York, July 15, 1775.

Sir,

I rece'd from Mr. Pendleton at the last meeting £21 of the Fifty that he said was due to me, but without any account. I beg you will bring him to a Settlement, & transmit to me by Col^o Nelson the ballance together with a State of the account; for at a time when I am obliged to pay a large Sum yearly for my Office, without receiving any advantage from it, I am really put to great difficulties. I am Sir

Your most h^{ble} Serv^t

THOS. NELSON.

Lee Hall, June 29th, 1778.

Sir,

I see the haughty Court of G. B. & their Commissioners have sent an insulting Message offering Pardons to the Sovereign free and Independ. States of America. I have not the least room to doubt that it will be treated with the contempt it deserves. If America would exert itself these invaders might be driven off the Continent. Our Country seems to be asleep & I think our Gov-

ernment wants energy. If you have a spare moment I shall be glad to hear from you. I am S^r y^r H^{ble} Serv^t

RICHARD LEE.

Philadelphia, 25th June, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I hear that your Assembly have ordered a Land Office to be Opened, you will remember Our Conversation, on this Subject, and what my Proposals on that Subject were, on which, I wish to know your Sentiments, as well as those of Your Friends. I mean to engage in Lands on a large Scale somewhere, & am at Present disengaged, & undetermined,—my View generally is to engage in a Company who should take in a Sufficiency for a Small Government, suppose of One Hundred Miles Square, and those I can engage to come into it will be able to advance any Sum equal to the Undertakeing so that the Interest would instantly become Valuable. On the River Mississippi near Illinois, On the West Side of the Ohio, or on the south side of Lake Erie are the lands I should prefer—your State will never be able to extend its Government to the Ohio for any Time, but the Disputes which must Soon arise about Jurisdiction &c. will render the situation on the East Side of the Ohio for some time disagreeable. But I am Confident you will never be so mad as to entertain the Romantic Notion of including any thing beyond the Ohio, where a Government may be fixed to Our Own liking, indeed I must say that if Virginia acts wisely they will never oppose the Illinois and Wabash Companies from possessing & Settling their Purchases, since the instant Settlements are begun beyond the River Ohio, the immense tract on this Side will rise in Value As fast as Continental money has depreciated. This comes by Mons. DeFraney, and I pray you present my Compliments to Col. Bannister and Col. Franey & consult with them on the subject—I am with much Respect Dear Sir,

Your most Obed^t & Very Hum^{le} Serv^t,

SILAS DEANE.